

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

2 A method and apparatus for controlling the operating speed of a manufacturing
3 facility is disclosed. It includes determining a desired operating speed that is dependent
4 on at least one economic variable. The variables vary with the operating speed. Also, the
5 operating speed is adjusted (if necessary) in response to the determination. Preferably the
6 control is closed loop and includes determining a current operating speed and comparing
7 the current operating speed to the desired operating speed. The operating speed is
8 controlled in response to the comparison. The economic variable is preferably a cost of
9 manufacturing, and/or manufacturing inflows, and/or manufacturing outflows. The
10 economic efficiency is dependent on one or more economic variables that vary with
11 operating speed. The current economic efficiency of the facility is obtained along with
12 information on the business transactions that affects the economic variables. The
13 economic efficiency of the facility with the proposed transaction, leaving the remaining
14 variables constant is calculated. Then, the result is displayed to the end user.